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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,814	01/18/2002	Masayoshi Ishibashi		8952

7590 07/22/2003

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

KIM, PETER B

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 07/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/050,814	ISHIBASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Peter B. Kim	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 24-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/090,942.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>12002</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The term “bias voltage” is not defined in the written description.

The following art rejection is made based on the examiner’s best understanding of the term “bias voltage.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 24, and 27 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arnett et al. (Arnett) (5,049,461).

Arnett discloses a method of performing lithography on a substrate using a resist film (10) comprising the following steps: exposing the resist film with electron from a tip (12) by supplying a first bias voltage, which is larger than the second voltage, between the tip and the substrate for portions of the resist film in which latent images are formed (col. 3, lines 33-40) and irradiating the resist film with electrons from the tip by supplying a second bias voltage between the tip and the substrate so as not to form latent images (col. 3, lines 14-31, where 0.7 volts is maintained just to maintain the tip at a desired position).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 25, 26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnett et al. (Arnett) in view of Kuroda et al. (Kuroda) (5,546,374).

Arnett discloses the claimed invention as discussed above. Arnett further discloses a fabrication apparatus comprising an electrically conductive tip, a first holder (19) for holding the tip (19p, 19r), a second holder (17) for holding a substrate (16), a device for supplying exposure current from the tip to the resist layer by supplying a voltage between the second holder and the tip,

(Fig. 2A), wherein the first holder is deformed by Coulomb force produced by the voltage (col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 27) and exposing the resist film with electron from a tip (12) by supplying a first bias voltage, which is larger than the second voltage, between the tip and the substrate for portions of the resist film in which latent images are formed (col. 3, lines 33-40) and irradiating the resist film with electrons from the tip by supplying a second bias voltage between the tip and the substrate so as not to form latent images (col. 3, lines 14-31, where 0.7 volts is maintained just to maintain the tip at a desired position). However, Arnett does not disclose the tip making a contact with the film or moving of the substrate along an X-Y surface. Kuroda discloses in Fig. 1, 2 and 3 the tip making a contact with the film and the moving of the substrate along the X-Y- surface (col. 3, line 25-30). Kuroda also discloses applying larger or smaller voltage as required in col. 5, lines 50-67. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the method of Kuroda to the invention of Arnett in order to prevent breaking of the tip and contaminating of the tip as taught by Kuroda in col. 1, lines 50-67.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Kim whose telephone number is (703) 305-0105. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays during the same hours.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russ Adams can be reached on 703 308 2847. The fax phone numbers for the

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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 872 9318 for regular communications and 703 872 9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 306 3431.



Peter B. Kim
Patent Examiner
July 18, 2003